

The need to re-establish labor-management partnerships is clear. In many Government agencies there is a lack of trust exhibited between managers, employees, and their representatives. This has created a morale problem at many mission critical agencies; including the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, which was named in a recent study by the Office of Personnel Management as having the lowest level of morale in the Federal Government.

Now, more than ever, the American people expect Government to lead by example. Therefore, it is imperative to restore labor-management partnerships. Partnership is a proven practice that works. Partnership gives added value to the federal workforce; and it is my fervent belief that partnership is essential for a more productive civil service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BEVERLY A. SCOTT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Beverly A. Scott's service as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Sacramento Regional Transit District. Dr. Scott leaves a lasting legacy in Sacramento and she will be deeply missed. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest public servants.

Dr. Scott has been a tireless advocate for public transportation. After earning a doctorate in political science from Howard University, she started her career in 1977 at Texas Southern University as one of four national recipients of a Carnegie Foundation Fellowship. Dr. Scott went on to work as the general manager at the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority as well as holding executive management positions with transit agencies in New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC. In New York, Dr. Scott was the first woman appointed vice president of surface transit and she was responsible for the daily transit operations of New York and Staten Island Rail.

With such an accomplished past, Dr. Scott joined the Sacramento Regional Transit District in October of 2002 and increased morale immediately. Using a variety of tools, Dr. Scott created a new strategic plan involving a wide variety of partners, both inside and outside of Regional Transit's organization. Under her leadership, the Regional Transit successfully expanded light rail to Sunrise Boulevard, followed by an extension to the City of Folsom. Light rail has also expanded in downtown Sacramento to the Amtrak station.

Dr. Scott played an instrumental role in the renewal of Measure A, which provides local funding for mass transit and transportation priorities. For the past 3 years, Regional Transit has been awarded a financial accountability award of excellence for their improved budget reporting, and fiscal management. Dr. Scott also created the Regional Transit University to improve employee training. With Transit Etiquette Program forums and the restructuring of RT's Mobility Advisory Committee Dr. Scott's leadership has helped Regional Transit serve all of us in Sacramento that use public transit.

The Sacramento Regional Transit District, also known as RT, has recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of light rail. RT operates a comprehensive public transit system that includes 97 bus routes and 37 miles of light rail, covering a 418 square-mile service area. Buses and light rail run 365 days a year from 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., giving riders ample opportunities to utilize their services. Using 76 light rail vehicles, 254 buses powered by compressed natural gas and 17 shuttle vans, RT is not only affordable and convenient but also environmentally friendly.

Personally, Dr. Scott has been a pleasure to work with. Her compassion and spirit has made her a wonderful addition to the Sacramento community as well. She is a caring, smart and thoughtful administrator, who knows how to be tough when needed. I have been told that she is affectionately known as "Hurricane Bev" for her energy, enthusiasm and dedication to getting the job done, while those who work with her also call her "Mummy."

For her work in Sacramento and across the Nation, Dr. Scott has received numerous awards, including awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation, American Public Transportation Association, National Business League, Women's Transportation Seminar, Rhode Island Professional Engineers Society, Sierra Club, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the Urban League, City Year, and Paratransit.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Beverly A. Scott's distinguished commitment to Sacramento's public transportation. Dr. Scott has stood as an instrumental force behind the advancement of the Sacramento Regional Transit District and has helped improve the overall quality of life for generations to come. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Dr. Scott's colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT THOMAS NEWTON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to recognize SMSgt Tom Newton for his 24 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he serves as the Superintendent, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force, where he is responsible for Air Force legislative matters and facilitating worldwide Congressional travel. As you know, Madam Speaker, Sergeant Newton has professionally served as your escort for two Congressional delegations this year and a dozen other delegation trips around the world since 2004.

Prior to June 2004, he was the Chief, Workgroup Manager for Headquarters Security Forces, Pentagon, responsible to the Director for network security, antiterrorism, force protection, and supporting Operation Global

Eagle. From 1998 to 2001, Sergeant Newton was the Information Management Superintendent for the Force Structure, Resources, and Assessments (J-8) Directorate, Joint Staff, Pentagon. He served as Deputy Executive and facilitated multiple Joint Warfighting Capabilities Assessments on behalf of the Director. Prior to January 1998, he served as Instructor, Information Management Craftsmen Course at Keesler AFB in Mississippi, where he earned Master Instructor Certification. Sergeant Newton began his illustrious career at the 4th Wing, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, where he directly supported the 4404th Provisional Wing during Operation Desert Storm/Shield.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to SMSgt Tom Newton for his outstanding service to both legislative branches and our United States Air Force. We wish him the best as he transitions into a new career. Senior Master Sergeant Newton is a true professional and a credit to himself and the United States Air Force.

CODELS FOR SMSGT NEWTON

2004

CODEL Bilirakis—Athens, Greece/Venice, Italy (7-16 Nov).

2005

CODEL Shimkus—St. Louis, Missouri (26-28 Jan).

CODEL Bilirakis—Brussels, Belgium/Paris, France/London, UK (18-28 Feb).

CODEL King—Vienna, Austria/Aman, Jordan/Tel Aviv, Israel/Cairo, Egypt/Rabat, Morocco (30 Jul-7 Aug).

SPEAKER Hastert—Glasgow, Scotland/Luxembourg (15-20 Sep).

2006

CODEL Hefley—San Diego, California (25-29 Jan).

CODEL Hefley—Brussels, Belgium/Paris, France/London, UK (17-28 Feb).

CODEL Goodlatte—Denver, Colorado/San Angelo, Texas (7-9 May).

CODEL Young—Alaska (29 Jul-6 Aug).

2007

SPEAKER Pelosi—Jerusalem, Israel/Damascus, Syria/Riyadh, Saudi Arabia/Lisbon, Portugal (29 Mar-7 Apr).

CODEL Tanner—Lisbon, Portugal/Tunis, Tunisia/Rabat, Morocco (24 May-3 Jun).

SPEAKER Pelosi—New Orleans, Louisiana (12-15 Aug).

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW RICHARD WILL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Matthew Richard Will, a father, husband, firefighter, and hero who died recently in the line of duty helping to protect the people he had sworn to serve.

Matthew Will was a Heavy Fire Equipment Operator for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as Cal Fire. Will started his career with Cal Fire in 2003 and recently graduated from the department's fire academy in Lone. He was assigned to the Hollister Air Attack Base in Cal Fire's San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Earlier this month a house fire broke out in the heavily wooded and rugged area of Big